

2013**Issue****Two****BCI Diplomatic Mailbag - The Ambassador's newsletter:
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Welcome to BCI Ambassador's Newsletter for 2013!

*Well China is in our rear view mirror and
Australia is coming up FAST!!*

*Our GOAL in this year is to raise as much money as possible for BCI,
so we can fund many new projects in 2013!*

There are many new and exciting things in the future for BCI, the First
of which is the **NEW BCI 50th Anniversary Photo Book!**

Frank Mihalic – BCI Ambassadors Newsletter Editor:

Mihalicf@yahoo.com

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BCI Excellence Awards



“The BCI Excellence Award” is to be awarded to an outstanding Bonsai Tree and/or Outstanding Suiseki Stone in Bonsai shows around the world attended by BCI board members. Each board member has been given a few of these prestigious awards to present as they travel the world attending/speaking at Bonsai & Suiseki shows. BCI Board Member **Guillermo Castano**.

THANK YOU! Guillermo for all of your help and support of Bonsai Clubs International. These Awards are likely to be a coveted addition to any Bonsai Artist's collection.

We have Just received a NEW Shipment of these Medals so keep your eyes open for them when you attend your next Bonsai Show!

BCI - Fundraisers

***PLEASE Help BCI by sponsoring a fund raiser,
and have some Bonsai Fun while doing it!***

**It is not easy financing a Non-profit organization like
Bonsai Clubs International.**

We are encouraging all BCI members, friends, and ambassadors to help raise money to support Bonsai Clubs International. Any thing you can do to support BCI is GREATLY APRECIATED! We are discussing many projects to help celebrate Bonsai Clubs International's **50th Anniversary** in **2013!**

Message to all Ambassadors:

We encourage all BCI Ambassadors and their clubs to share your experiences with us. We are always looking for articles for the Ambassadors Newsletter and for the BCI magazine. If you have some thing good going on, let us in on it.

***Please Join Us and send in your stories and we will try to share them with
all of the BCI members and Ambassadors, Thank You***

Anything exciting going on in your corner of the Bonsai world?

Contact the Editor**
At Mihalicf@yahoo.com



Coming up Soon!

-----2013-----

20-21 July 2013: Columbus, Ohio Annual Bonsai Show. Franklin Park Conservatory, 1777 East broad St., Columbus , Ohio www.Columbusbonsai.org

16-18 August 2013: Midwest Bonsai Society, 36th annual Mid-American Show
Held at The Chicago Botanical Gardens, Highland park, IL www.midwestbonsai.org

12-15 September 2013: For the Love of Bonsai: ABS Learning Seminars hosted by the Mohawk Hudson Bonsai Society at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs, NY.
<http://www.loveofbonsai.com>

23-24 August 2013: Redwood Empire Bonsai Show, 1351 Maple Ave, Santa Rosa, Ca. Contact Bob Shimon, Shimon@mcn.org

25-27 September 2013: WBC 2013 at Jintan, China. Details at <http://www.wbff-2013.org/indexaction!pbviewbyid.action?pbcl=213>.

12-13 October 2013: Ashville N.C. Bonsai Show, held at the North Carolina Botanical Gardens

24-27 October 2013: 2013 Biennial South African Bonsai Association Convention
hosted by the Eastern Bonsai Society at Johannesburg, South Africa.
bonsai@pixie.co.za.

31st Oct-3 November 2013: Golden State Bonsai Federation, Annual Bonsai Show
2500 north Hollywood Way, Burbank, ca, 91505 www.GSBF-bonsai.org

November 2013: Shuga-ten exhibition held at Ueno Green Club in Tokyo
(Tel: 03-5685-5656)

November 2013: 34th Taikan-ten bonsai exposition in the Kansai (west Japan) area held at Miyako-Messe in Kyoto

-----2014-----

13-14 September The 4th US NATIONAL BONSAI EXHIBITION, in Rochester, New York.
More in for contact www.Internationalbonsai.com

22-25 August 2014: BCI 201: BCI will be held at Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia.
Details <http://bonsai-bci.com>.

NOW AVAILABLE!

BCI 50TH ANNIVERSARY PHOTO ALBUM

BCI's limited edition publication, *Best of BCI: 50 stones, 50 trees, 50 years*, includes the finalists from the BCI 50th Anniversary Bonsai & Stone Photo Competition.

Order your copy now!

Best of BCI: 50 stones, 50 trees, 50 years.

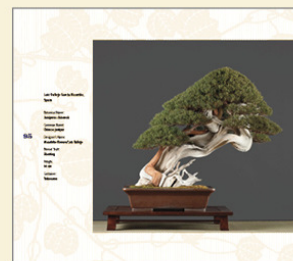
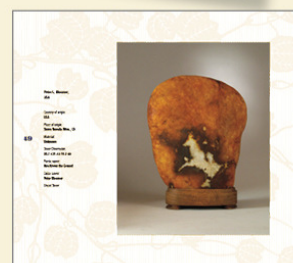
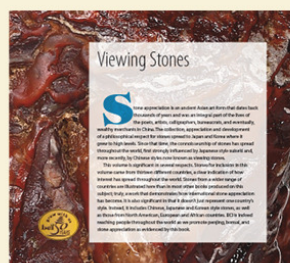
Hard cover, 120 pages, full color, limited edition, 9.25" x 8.25" / 23.5 x 21 cm, \$49.95 USD + S&H. S&H: Domestic/International; 1-3 books; \$5.00 / \$9.00. 4-5 books; \$12 / \$26. 6-9 books; \$18 / \$62. Contact BCI Business Office for other quantities.

The judges provided scores for each tree and stone entered in the BCI 2013 Photo Competition and those with the highest scores were selected for publication. The bonsai vary from deciduous to tropical trees originating from diverse countries, while many beautiful stones originate from different regions in the world.

The judges for stone appreciation were: **Song Jae Sun**, President of Indonesian Suiseki Association, Jakarta chapter, who is an expert in Korean, Japanese and Chinese stones; **Maria Rosa Bonet Balaguer**, a talented suiseki expert from Spain who served as a judge in several suiseki exhibitions and is familiar with the beauty of stones from China, Japan, Korea and Europe; and **Duc Tam Bui**, a stone expert from Vietnam with much knowledge on stone appreciation.

The judges for bonsai were: **Koji Hiramatsu**, the Director of All Japan Shohin Bonsai Association, the headliner in ASPAC Takamatsu, Japan and also in All India Bonsai Convention in Baroda, India; **David Benavente**, a talented artist from Spain who had demonstrated in many places in the world and writer in many international magazines; and **Jose Luis Rodriguez Macias**, a talented bonsai artist from Puerto Rico, also a specialist in tropical bonsai as well as the headliner in ASPAC 9 in Bali.

Starts Shipping
May 2013
while
quantities
last



Discounts and Promo Codes

BCI50A-P: Contest participants: 20% off the retail price.

BCI50A-C: BCI member bonsai clubs: 20% off retail price for 6 or more copies delivered to one address.

BCI50A-V: Volume discount of 30% for orders over 25 copies.

Reseller discount of 40% for qualifying retailers. Please contact the BCI Business Office.

Advance Orders will start shipping in early May 2013. Orders after publication will ship within 7 days while quantities last. Shipping times vary but are approximately 7-14 days. Shipments to non-US destinations may incur customs documentation fees which are not included in our charges. Shipping and handling costs for 1 to 3 books: \$5.00 Domestic orders, \$9.00 International orders. Four to five books: \$12 Domestic, \$26 International. Six to nine books: \$18 Domestic, \$62 International. Contact BCI Business Office for shipping costs on other quantities.

Orderform with PayPal is available on the home page of BCI website, www.bonsai-bci.com.



Order by phone or post: For BCI members who do not wish order over the Internet, please contact BCI Business Manager, Carole Roske to reserve your copies.

BCI Business Office: PO Box 40463, Bay Village, OH, 44140-9998 US, phone 00-1-440-871-4797

Email: bcimanager@visn.net

President's Message to BCI Ambassadors Issue 2, 2013

Copies of our newly published *Best of BCI: 50 Stones, 50 Trees, 50 Years* were mailed in early June to people and clubs who placed pre-publication orders. I am pleased that our initial sales were strong and resulted in the sale of nearly half of our total press run. Several of our clubs have placed orders for multiple copies of our book, thus, taking advantage of the 20% discount from the retail price. This lowers the price individual members have to pay by \$10.00 when ordering books through their clubs. This BCI club membership discount offer is being extended so more of our clubs can take participate in this opportunity. Why paid \$49.95 for the book, when your club can purchase copies for you at \$40.00 each.

If your club is interested in taking advantage of this membership benefit, please contact our Business Manager, Carole Roske at bcimanager@visn.net and let her know how many copies your club would like to purchase at one time. Shipping multiple copies to one address saves on the shipping costs.

Finally, it is not too early to begin thinking about the 2014 convention in Australia. Take advantage of the convention to take a vacation in this beautiful country and, possibly, a side trip to New Zealand. They are great places to vacation and English is spoken, albeit with an accent.

Tom Elias, President

Please contact Tom Elias at tselias@msn.com and let me have your comments and recommendations.



BCI 50th Anniversary Committee Update

Guillermo Castano Ramirez has given BCI, for its 50th anniversary, a one of a kind "lost wax" bronze sculpture. It is studded with Columbian emeralds and will be offered for on line auction to all Bonsai Clubs, or Bonsai Schools.



It would be a magnificent piece of art for any bonsai club/schools, to give as an award, to be placed on a bonsai display table or to be used as a commemorative gift.



Only a FEW of these **Kusamono** pots are still available!

These were hand made by **Pauline Muth** to mark the 50 years that BCI has woven friendships and bonsai together across the world.

Each little pot is unique, handcrafted, and can be used as a “companion pot” or Kusamono.

With the pot, you will receive the instructions by **Young Choe**, as to how to create your own unique Kusamono. **Young Choe** is a highly recognized new Kusamono artist.

These pots can be ordered @ Pauline@pfmbonsai.com

*Each pot will include shipping and can also be ordered on line at the BCI website. **Cost of pot in the United States \$36.00***

Cost of pot anywhere out side of the United States \$47.00

Have anything you want to share, just send it in!

Club Events, Tree Pictures, or just Ideas!

TO ALL BONSAI CLUBS AND AMBASSADOR'S:

The BCI website has a section about different species of trees. bonsai-bci.com

Club Corner

BCI at a hockey arena!. A first in Canada!

The Matsuyama Bonsai Club of Oshawa Canada held its annual bonsai show in a Canadian hockey arena on June 8/9 and BCI was there.

The bonsai show was part of Peony Festival, the national emblem of China, and there were over 1000 visitors. Our new brochures disappeared quickly.

Bonsai in unexpected places. A hockey arena in Oshawa was divided in half and the bonsai display was past the red line and near the goal posts. Score!







Association of Australian Bonsai Clubs Ltd
Invites you to the
Bonsai Clubs International Convention 2014



'Sunrise on Australian Bonsai'

21 – 24 August 2014

Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia

Convention Program

Thursday -

August 21, 2014

8:30 am – 5:00 pm	BCI Board Meeting
11:00 am – 1:00 pm	AABC Executive Meeting
2:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Convention Registration
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Welcome Reception

Friday-

August 22, 2014

7:30 am – 8:30 am	BCI Delegates Meeting
8:30 am – 9:00 am	Opening Ceremony
9:00 am – 10:00 am	International Demonstrator Round Robin starts
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Morning Tea
10:30 am – 12 noon	International Round Robin finishes / Chen Wenjuan demonstration starts
12 noon – 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Chen Wenjuan demonstration finishes/ Australian Demonstrator Round Robin starts
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Afternoon Tea
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Australian Round Robin finishes
3:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Jewellery Making Workshop #1

***Saturday –
August 23, 2014***

7:30 am – 8:30 am	BCI Annual General Meeting
8:30 am – 10:00 am	Zhao Qingquan Demonstration
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Morning Tea
10:30 am – 11:30 am	Suiseki Display Critique with Tom Elias
10:30 am – 12 noon	Zhao Qingquan Demonstration
12 noon – 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	International Team Bonsai Styling Contest
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Afternoon Tea
3:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Suiseki Presentation #1 with Tom Elias
3:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Bonsai Presentation #1
3:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Jewellery Making Workshop #2
7:00 pm – 11:00 pm	Banquet / Awards / Country Karaoke Night / Auction

***Sunday-
August 24, 2014***

7:30 am – 8:30 am	AABC Annual General Meeting
8:30 am – 10:00 am	Shinichi Nakajima Demonstration
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Morning Tea
10:30 am – 11:30 am	Suiseki Display Critique with Tom Elias
10:30 am – 12 noon	Shinichi Nakajima Demonstration
12 noon – 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Suiseki Presentation #2 with Tom Elias
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Bonsai Presentation #2
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Afternoon Tea
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	BCI 2015 Presentation / AABC 2015 Presentation / Closing Ceremony
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Optional BBQ

Details correct at time of printing. For all Convention information, visit www.aabcltd.org

Registration Form

Registrations closes - 10 August 2014

First Name _____ Surname _____ Title _____
Address _____
State _____ Postcode _____ Country _____
Telephone (____) _____
Email _____
Affiliated Club _____

- Please fill out a separate form for each registrant (Photocopies are accepted).
- **Full Registration** includes: All demonstrations on Friday, Saturday & Sunday, entry to Exhibition and Sales area, lunch, morning and afternoon tea on the 3 days and Convention kit. **Day Registration** includes: All demonstrations on Friday, Saturday or Sunday, entry to Exhibition and Sales area, lunch, morning and afternoon tea on chosen day and Convention kit. Each registration incurs a \$20 non-refundable administration fee in the event of cancellation. Information provided on this form will be used only for purposes of the Convention.
- Cancellation after 10 August 2014 will also incur catering costs.
- The Convention, including Welcome Reception and Convention Dinner, will be held at:
QT Gold Coast Hotel, 7 Staghorn Ave, Surfers Paradise, Queensland 4217 Australia.
- Dietary considerations (A \$4 per meal surcharge applies, so for the 3 days a total of \$12 extra payment required):
☐ Diabetic ☐ Gluten Free ☐ Dairy Free ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Vegan ☐ Other (Please specify)

➤

REGISTRATION (please tick)			Fee	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Bird Full Registration (before 1 February 2014)			\$299	
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Registration (after 1 February 2014)			\$335	
<input type="checkbox"/> Day Registration (Friday)			\$195	
<input type="checkbox"/> Day Registration (Saturday)			\$195	
<input type="checkbox"/> Day Registration (Sunday)			\$195	
OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES (partners welcome to participate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Night Welcome Reception			\$79	
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Night Dinner			\$110	
Workshops				
Jewellery – Frank Mihalic	<input type="checkbox"/> \$180 (Fri 3.30 - 5.30pm)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$180 (Sat 3.30 - 5.30pm)		
Suiseki Critique – Tom Elias	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20 (Sat 10.30 - 11.30 am)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20 (Sun 10.30 - 11.30 am)		
		Dietary supplement payment		
		TOTAL	\$	

Method of Payment (please tick):☐ **PayPal to bonsai@aabcltd.org**

☐ **Direct Deposit:** Association of Australian Bonsai Clubs Ltd
 BANK: Commonwealth Bank of Australia
 BSB: 062295 Account No: 10221650 SWIFT CODE: CTABAAU2S
 (Please use your Surname and Initials as reference, so we can match your

deposit)

Please mail this registration form, plus a stamped self addressed envelope, to:

BCI 2014 Convention

PO Box 513, Ascot Vale, Victoria 3023, Australia

Receipt and confirmation letter will either be sent via return mail or e-mail where available.

Contact Glen Bebb – 0427 739 025 / glen@bonsainursery.com.auVisit **www.aabcltd.org** for all convention information and forms.



June is for Shows and Junipers

June is very popular for Spring Bonsai Shows that are organized by local clubs. Club members greet many visitors who have many questions about bonsai but talking to them about techniques can cause their eyes to glaze over. Here are three short legends about the Juniper taken from "The Lives of Trees" by Diana Wells that may capture a listener's imagination.

The first, earliest story, from the Old Testament, mentions the prophet Elijah, while fleeing from the wrath of Jezebel, went into the wilderness and collapsed exhausted "under a juniper tree." He prayed, "it is enough now O Lord take away my life." Instead when he woke up he found an angel had left food and water beside the tree. The food lasted him for 40 days. So we could say that the Juniper comes with God's gifts, when we want to spark some curiosity about Juniper bonsai.

The middle eastern juniper of the Bible could have been J. Sabina vulgarism, named for the area in Italy where it is abundant. The Sabine hills were evidently well populated with women as well as junipers. These women, so the second story goes, were victims of a trick by Romulus. To increase the new city of Rome's population, he arranged a kidnapping of the women, under the pretence of inviting them to a party.. After several years when the fathers of the Sabine women attacked the Romans, the Sabine women bravely prevented the war between the son in laws and father in laws by throwing themselves between them during the battle.. Brave women! Perhaps this second story could be told to a group of women who are visiting a bonsai show.

In 1664, it was written that juniper berries were "one of the most universal remedies in the world." About the same time a physician at the University of Leiden accidentally discovered gin. He tried to distil juniper berries for a diuretic remedy with the properties of Juniper berry oil. It was sampled and brought home to England by soldiers returning from the Low Countries of Holland. Dutch gin was made from beer distilled twice with juniper berries included in that second distillation. The word gin comes from the French "genevrier" or "juniper." It should not be confused with the bonsai term of "jin" meaning a broken dead branch styled as part of a bonsai tree. This third story seems especially designed for those who imbibe while viewing bonsai.

Other legends can be found. For instance, in Germany it was customary to take off one's hat when passing a Juniper tree and the German name for Juniper is "whacholder" or "awake tree". It was supposed to be dangerous to fall asleep under Juniper tree. This is a sharp contrast of the story about Elijah and the Juniper and perhaps should be mentioned to the visitors who are moving too slowly around a bonsai show venue..

These stories add to the joy of showing a very traditional juniper bonsai and its cousin the "Thuja plicata" which was particularly favoured for totem poles. Totem poles that contain the legends of a whole culture. The juniper is slow growing, easy to care for, adapts well to Canadian growing conditions, and if you need to know more about its culture visit the BCI website.

*For a description of Juniper for bonsai See the BCI website
<http://www.bonsai-bci.com/files/Blue%20Juniper.pdf>*

**Lives of Trees by: Diana Wells
* Literati Bonsai by: Frank Mihalic
by Joan Greenway*



QUOTES to live by:

*Here are some good quotes to follow with a reference to the
BCI article on John Naka...a little fun*

Keep smiling, Joan

A problem branch is no problem once it is cut off.

- Ron Martin

***It takes just as much time, energy and money to dig up a tree that has a
potential to be a nice bonsai as it does to dig up one that doesn't.***

- Ron Martin

Think: tree.

- Mr. Miyagi, "The Karate Kid"

The result; that comes after. Your enjoyment is what is important.

- John Naka

***The bonsai is not you working on the tree; you have to have the tree work
on you.***

- John Naka

***If you can't find the front, instead find the back and then rotate it 180
degrees.***

- John Naka

***It must have philosophy, botany, artistry, human quality behind it to be
bonsai.***

- John Naka

Killing trees is the tuition you pay for learning bonsai.

- John Naka

Listen to the tree; it tells you where it wants to go!

- John Naka

***The object is not to make the tree look like a bonsai, but to make the
bonsai look like a tree.***

- John Naka